

Director's Report

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**HIGHER
EDUCATION**
COORDINATING BOARD

Lower revenue forecast will dominate 2003 session

By Marc Gaspard

The news this month about the state's glum revenue forecast is more bad news for both state government, colleges and universities, and Washington residents.

Dr. Chang Mook Sohn, the state's chief economist and member of our Board, says state government revenues will drop \$256 million from previous estimates, creating a shortfall of nearly \$2 billion in the approaching biennial budget.

Not only was the revenue news bad, but Washington also has been officially named the state with the nation's highest unemployment rate, according to Washington Employment Security Department.

Such a double whammy could seriously cripple the state's ability to provide quality higher education for its citizens.

It's even more critical that we continue to build awareness of the issues in higher education funding.

With competing interests for

dwindling state dollars, higher education will have to make a strong and compelling case before the Legislature this year.

News on the GET Program



The GET Program received more than \$11 million in payment during the last week of August.

The new unit cost is \$52.

The enrollment year began Sept. 15 and will end March 31, 2003.

There are 1,100 students eligible to use their GET benefits this year.

GET statistics as of Sept. 3, 2002:

- ♦ **24,063** total active accounts (10,819 new enrollments for the 2001-02 year)
- ♦ **5.12 million** tuition units purchased
- ♦ **\$161 million** in payments received
- ♦ **\$226.147 million** total value (includes future payments expected)

Key Facts book available

In other areas, the Board has produced a book that highlights important areas of higher education.

"Key Facts about Higher Education in Washington" is a compilation of the most-often asked questions about higher education.

While it is not designed to cover all aspects of the higher education community, it does capture a wide variety of topics and presents them in an easy-to-understand format.

So far, we have received positive comments from users about the book.

We plan to update it annually.

Promise Scholarship events

In early October, I will accompany Gov. Locke on his annual presentation of Washington Promise Scholarships to students across the state.

This year, the governor will present certificates to students at Eastern Washington University, Central Washington University, Pacific Lutheran University and Clark College in Vancouver.

Four new federal GEAR UP grants awarded to state partnerships

Last week the U.S. Department of Education awarded new five-year GEAR UP grants to four local partnership groups in Washington.

Only California, with 10 awards, and Texas, with five, received more GEAR UP awards than Washington.

"This is great news for Washington," said John McLain, associate director of the GEAR UP program. "These new GEAR UP grants will give thousands more disadvantaged middle and high school students the academic support and planning they need to become successful college students."

GEAR UP, which stands for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, motivates students from low-income and disadvantaged backgrounds to stay in school, study hard, and prepare for college.

The program links colleges and universities, schools, and community organizations to improve teaching, support the efforts of parents, and prepare middle and high school students for college.

The lead organizations of the four winning GEAR UP partnership are Central Washington University,

The Evergreen State College, Washington State University, and the Wenatchee School District.

The four new Washington grantees join a state GEAR UP program led by Gov. Gary Locke. It is administered by the Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board, and six local GEAR UP partnership programs in Pasco, Renton, Seattle, Tacoma, Yakima, and the Lower Yakima Valley.

A complete list of GEAR UP awards across the nation is available on the Department's Web page:

[GEAR UP awards](#).

DHP moves to the Internet for better client service

In its ongoing effort to improve client information records, the Displaced Homemaker Program (DHP) is using Internet technology to provide client data forms on-line to its contractors.

Previously, contractors submitted client information on paper forms to the HECB on a quarterly basis.

Staff then reviewed the forms. Those with information missing or other errors were returned to contractors for correction. Finally, forms were entered into the DHP database

for review and research purposes.

With the help of Pat Castaldo of the agency's Information Services staff, DHP staffers have created an on-line intake form that is now available to contractors on the HECB's secure Web site (only individuals granted access to the forms will be able to enter data).

Users will be alerted when certain information is missing or when unlikely information is entered, thus reducing the possibility of entry error.

Brenda Landers, DHP program

manager, said on-line forms have a number of advantages. There is less data entry for DHP staff, fewer papers for contractors to keep track of, reduced errors, and more frequent updates of client information.

Currently, client intake forms are available for use on-line, with plans to make other client forms available in the future.

The new system will mean overall increased efficiency and accuracy for both DHP staff and contractors.

HECB welcomes new (and familiar) faces in policy, GET and Promise programs

The HECB welcomes **Nina Oman** to the Policy staff of the Board.

Nina comes to the Board from the University of Washington, where she was an analyst for budget and planning. She holds a bachelor's degree in art history, a master's in public administration and is currently working on her doctorate in philosophy.

Heidi Arneson is the newest employee of the GET program. She began her work with staff this week.

She previously worked as an admissions recruiter for Azusa Pacific University and as a history teacher at Maranatha High School in California. Heidi has a bachelor's degree in social science with a minor in political science.

Madelyn Jacques has agreed to step into the role of acting program manager for the Washington Promise Scholarship on an interim basis during this very busy time of year. Plans are under way to recruit for the permanent position in November.

Interviews continue for the customer service representative position with the GET program.

The interview committee anticipates making a recommendation soon.

Welcome to all our new employees!

New scholarship honors De La Cruz

The American Indian Endowed Scholarship selection committee has named 23 students who will receive scholarships for the academic year.

The scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis to outstanding students with close social and cultural ties to an American Indian tribe. Recipients demonstrate academic merit and a commitment to serve the American Indian community in Washington.

Scholarship funds come from the interest earnings on an endowment established from by the Washington Legislature in 1990, with matching contributions from tribes, individuals and organizations. The HECB administers the scholarship program.

Along with the nine new \$1,000 awards this year, 10 undergraduate

students will receive renewal scholarships for \$1,000 each, and three graduate students will receive renewal awards of \$1,500 each.

New to the program at the request of Gov. Gary Locke is the naming of a student as the "Joe De La Cruz Scholar," honoring the memory of the late president of the Quinault Indian Nation. De La Cruz served as president of the Quinault Indian Nation from 1972 to 1994 and served two terms as president of the National Congress of American Indians.

Andrea D. Arnold of Omak is the first Joe De La Cruz Scholar. An enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, she is pursuing a law degree at the University of Washington School of Law. She plans to work on tribal issues.

SWS calls for program grant proposals

This year, the Higher Education Coordinating Board will again award grants to institutions to fund administrative improvements in the State Work Study (SWS) program. These one-year administrative grants help participating schools raise the quality of SWS program services.

The Board is asking for plans that foster quality job placements, bring needed efficiencies, and promise collaborative approaches. Funds can be used to pay for staffing, training, technology, promotion of

student employment, and other activities.

Proposals should request funding levels needed to accomplish the goals of the project. In order to distribute funds more widely, most grants awarded to individual schools are expected to range from \$2,500 to \$5,000. Collaborative proposals from more than one school could anticipate larger amounts.

The deadline for applications is Thursday, Oct. 31, 2002. Awards will be announced by Nov. 15, 2002.